

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A network bridge (14) has an associated malware scanner (16) that serves to concatenate portions of a data file from within data packets intercepted by the  
5 network bridge (14) and then scan the data file concerned before the data file is forwarded to its intended recipient by the network bridge (14). The network bridge (14) may be inserted in a network topology without requiring significant network configuration changes. The network bridge (14) may include a packet analysis unit  
10 (56) that serves to intercept only data packets having a predetermined network layer protocol or a predetermined application layer protocol.

[Figure 8]